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RFS14

INTELLIGENCE (NEWS IN DEPTH)

BY RALPH HARRIS

WASHINGTON, REUTER - A DRASTIC SHAKE-UP IN AMERICA'S
GLOBE-CIRCLING INTELLIGENCE NETWORK HAS PUT MORE POWER IN
THE HANDS OF WHITE HOUSE ADVISER HENRY KISSINGER.

THE GERMAN-BORN DR. KISSINGER, ALREADY PERHAPS THE MOST
INFLUENTIAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL EXCEPT FOR PRESIDENT NIXON
HIMSELF, HAS THE PRESIDENT'S EAR ON ALL FOREIGN POLICY AND
SECURITY PROBLEMS.

NOW, HE HAS BEEN GIVEN THE KEY JOB OF PROVIDING GUIDANCE AND
DIRECTION TO CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (C.I.A.) DIRECTOR
RICHARD HELMS. HELMS IN TURN HAS BEEN GIVEN NEW AUTHORITY TO
COORDINATE THE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN BRANCHES OF THE
INTELLIGENCE APPARATUS, WHICH HAVE SOMETIMES BEEN RIVALS IN
THE PAST.

THE REORGANIZATION HAS ALREADY DRAWN CRITICISM FROM SENATORS
WHO FEAR THAT DR. KISSINGER'S SPECIAL ADVISORY POSITION COULD
PUT HIM BEYOND THE REACH OF CONGRESSIONAL EFFORTS TO SEEK AN
ACCOUNTING.

THE 48-YEAR-OLD FORMER PROFESSOR GAINED MORE
INTERNATIONAL PROMINENCE THAN EVE WITH A THRILLER-STYLE SECRET
MISSION TO PEKING IN JULY TO ARRANGE FOR A VISIT THERE BY
PRESIDENT NIXON NEXT YEAR.

HE IS NOW IN AN UNCHALLENGEABLE POSITION TO OVERSEE
THE SECRET INFORMATION WHICH HE USES TO RECOMMEND POLICY DECISIONS
TO THE PRESIDENT.

REORGANIZATION OF THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES WAS ANNOUNCED
BY THE WHITE HOUSE ON NOVEMBER 5 AFTER A LONG STUDY OF THE
TRIUMPHS AND FAILURES OF THE C.I.A. AND THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE
AGENCIES--AND THE BATTLES BETWEEN THEM OVER INTERPRETING INFORMATION.

THE OFFICIAL AIM OF THE SHAKE-UP WAS A MORE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE
INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM.

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THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE APPARATUS IS UNOFFICIALLY REPORTED TO EMPLOY 200,000 PEOPLE AND TO COST FIVE BILLION DOLLARS A YEAR. HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS WERE KNOWN TO FEEL THAT IT HAD GROWN TOO BIG AND COSTLY IN TERMS OF THE AMOUNT OF RELIABLE OR USEFUL INFORMATION IT PRODUCED, AND THAT SOME OF ITS MISTAKES HAD PROVED EXPENSIVE IN TERMS OF NATIONAL PRESTIGE.

THE MOST CELEBRATED FAILURE OF U.S. INTELLIGENCE WAS PROBABLY AN ABORTIVE INVASION BY CUBAN EXILES AT THE BAY OF PIGS, SOUTHERN CUBA, WHICH IT PROMOTED IN 1963. AN EXPECTED REVOLT OF THE ISLAND'S PEOPLE AGAINST PREMIER FIDEL CASTRO'S GOVERNMENT FAILED TO MATERIALIZE.

BUT A MAIN REASON FOR THE SWEEPING CHANGES ORDERED BY THE WHITE HOUSE NOW WAS APPARENTLY PRESIDENT NIXON'S UNHAPPINESS OVER THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE PLANNING THAT WENT INTO AN ABORTIVE RAID ON A PRISON CAMP IN NORTHERN VIETNAM IN NOVEMBER OF LAST YEAR.

THE CAMP WAS BELIEVED TO HOLD AMERICAN PRISONERS. HELICOPTER-BORNE TEAMS OF ASSAULT TROOPS SNOOPED ON THE SON TAY CAMP NEAR HANOI AFTER MONTHS OF PAINSTAKING PLANNING AND INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING-- ONLY TO FIND THERE WERE NO PRISONERS THERE TO BE RESCUED.

HELMS HAS NOW BEEN PLACED IN A POSITION TO COORDINATE THE WORK OF THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES, AND KISSINGER HAS BEEN NAMED TO PUT THE WHITE HOUSE SEAL ON THE ENTIRE ESPIONAGE OPERATION.

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HELMS, RELIEVED OF HIS DAY-TO-DAY RESPONSIBILITIES AT THE C.I.A., IS CHAIRMAN OF A NEW INTELLIGENCE BOARD. THIS GROUP WILL CONSIDER NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE REQUIREMENTS AND PRIORITIES, THE SECURITY OF DATA, AND THE PROTECTION OF INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS.

THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (N.S.C.) STAFF IN THE WHITE HOUSE, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF DR. KISSINGER, HAS BEEN GIVEN THE CONTROLLING VOICE.

A NEW N.S.C. INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN FORMED, HEADED BY DR. KISSINGER AND INCLUDING ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN MITCHELL. IT WILL GIVE DIRECTION AND GUIDANCE ON NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE NEEDS AND EVALUATE THE USEFULNESS OF INFORMATION RECEIVED.

THIS MEANS THAT DR. KISSINGER WILL HAVE TIGHT CONTROL OVER THE INTELLIGENCE SUBMITTED TO THE PRESIDENT BY THE VARIOUS INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES, WHOSE REPORTS ARE SOMETIMES INFLUENCED BY BUDGET NEEDS OF THE PENTAGON AND OTHER PARENT AGENCIES.

THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF ITSELF WILL PRODUCE ASSESSMENTS OF THE STRATEGIC BALANCE BETWEEN THE MAJOR POWERS, TAKING OVER FROM THE AGENCIES WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF COLORING THEM TO FIT THEIR NEEDS.

THESE ASSESSMENTS ARE CRITICAL FACTORS IN BATTLES OVER MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PRIORITIES AND STRUGGLES AMONG THE INDIVIDUAL MILITARY SERVICES FOR BUDGET FUNDS.

THE NEW COMMITTEE IN THE WHITE HOUSE HAS BEEN NAMED THE NET ASSESSMENT GROUP (NAG)--AND ITS INITIALS APPROPRIATELY DESCRIBE ITS JOB.

"THE FUNCTION OF NAG WILL BE JUST WHAT ITS NAME SUGGESTS--
TO NAG THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY," SAID ONE OFFICIAL CLOSE TO
THE INTELLIGENCE SCENE.

ITS TASK, IN ADDITION TO KEEPING THE INTELLIGENCE APPARATUS ON ITS TOES, IS TO PRODUCE COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENTS OF THE RELATIVE STRENGTH OF WORLD POWERS. IT WILL DO THIS BY PULLING TOGETHER INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES FROM ALL OVER THE GOVERNMENT--POLITICAL, MILITARY AND ECONOMIC.

THE REORGANIZATION SHOULD RELEGATE TO THE PAST A RECENT
DISPUTE BETWEEN THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES, WHICH BELIEVE
THERE IS A HIGH LEVEL OF THREAT FROM SOVIET MISSILE DEVELOPMENT,
AND THE C.I.A., WHICH IS SAID TO BE MORE SCEPTICAL ABOUT THIS.

THE SHAKE-UP HAS CAUSED CONCERN IN THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, WHICH SEES AN END TO INDEPENDENCE IN INTERPRETING INTELLIGENCE AND RECOMMENDING ACTION BY THE PRESIDENT.

DEPUTY DEFENSE SECRETARY DAVID PACKARD CRITICIZED THE NEW SET-UP, SAYING HE DID NOT SUPPORT THE VIEW THAT INTELLIGENCE WOULD BE IMPROVED IF THE WHITE HOUSE KEPT A TIGHTER REIN ON IT.

"AFTER HAVING EXPERIENCE WITH A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THE WHITE HOUSE THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS, TRYING TO COORDINATE ALL SORT OF THINGS, I THINK IF ANYTHING WE NEED A LITTLE LESS COORDINATION FROM THAT POINT," HE SAID.

THE REORGANIZATION DREW FIRE FROM A NUMBER OF PROMINENT SENATORS, WHO FEEL IT GIVES THE WHITE HOUSE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DENY INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION TO CONGRESS.

DEMOCRATIC SENATORS J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT OF ARKANSAS,
CHAIRMAN OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND STUART SYMINGTON
OF MISSOURI, SAW DANGERS IN INCREASING THE POWERS OF DR.
KISSINGER, WHO, AS A WHITE HOUSE ADVISER, IS BEYOND THE DIRECT
REACH OF CONGRESS AND CANNOT READILY BE TAKEN TO ACCOUNT FOR HIS
STEWARDSHIP.

SENATOR SYMINGTON DEMANDED CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS TO EXAMINE
THE NEW INTELLIGENCE ARRANGEMENT, COMPLAINING THAT CONGRESS
ACCESS TO INTELLIGENCE WAS ALREADY SEVERELY RESTRICTED.

SENATOR FULBRIGHT HAS VAINLY SOUGHT TO FORCE DR.
KISSINGER TO TESTIFY BEFORE HIS COMMITTEE ON VIETNAM AND OTHER
FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES.

EARLIER THIS YEAR THE SENATOR, A MAJOR CRITIC OF SOME ADMINISTRATION POLICIES, INTRODUCED WHAT BECAME KNOWN AS "THE KISSINGER BILL." IT WOULD SET UP NEW RULES LIMITING THE EXERCISE OF "EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE," WHICH THE PRESIDENT CAN INVOKE TO KEEP CONGRESS FROM QUESTIONING MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF.

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